HE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Ryuji FUKADA et al.

Title:

MANUFACTURING METHOD OF ENDLESS METAL BELT AND

MANUFACTURING APPARATUS OF ENDLESS METAL BELT

Appl. No.:

10/644,087

Filing Date: 08/20/2003

Examiner:

Essama Omgba

Art Unit:

3726

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT **UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a prima facie art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed document is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(c), before the mailing date of either a final action under 37 CFR §1.113, a notice of allowance under 37 CFR §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

In a counterpart Chinese application, a Chinese Office Action issued on February 4, 2005. According to an English translation of the Chinese Office Action obtained by Applicants' representative, the Chinese Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references.

According to an English translation of the Chinese Office Action, document C1 discloses:

"Reference document C1 (see the whole text) discloses a manufacturing method of an endless metal belt having metal rings built up and differing in circumference, comprising the steps of: a first circumference correction step of expanding each of the metal rings, and a second circumference correction step of expanding each of the metal rings after conducting a solution heat treatment to the expanded metal ring, wherein by executing the first circumference correction step and the second circumference correction step before and after the solution heat treatment, respectively, an expansion quantity for setting a circumference of each of the metal rings to become a predetermined length is attained."

"Reference document C1 also discloses a manufacturing apparatus of an endless metal belt having metal rings built up and differing in circumference, comprising a first circumference correction section expanding each of the metal rings, and a second circumference correction section expanding each of

the metal rings after conducting a solution heat treatment to the expanded metal ring, wherein by using the first circumference correction section and the second circumference correction section before and after the solution heat treatment, respectively, an expansion quantity of setting a circumference of each of the metal rings to become a predetermined length is attained."

As noted, the characterizations of the Chinese Patent Office noted above are based on an English translation obtained by Applicant's representative. The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement with the opinions expressed in the Chinese Office Action.

Documents C1 and C2 belong to the same "patent family," whereby the English language document may assist the PTO in understanding the content of the non-English language document.

Unless otherwise indicated, no English translation is readily available (not considering machine-generated translations that may be freely available online, to both the Applicant(s) and the PTO) for each of the non-English language documents. However, a commercially available English language abstract is provided herewith, where indicated on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Inasmuch as Applicant(s) has endeavored to provide at least one item that complies with the requirement for a "concise explanation of relevance" for each of the non-English language documents, each of these documents has been submitted in compliance with the PTO requirements and should be considered by the Examiner (37 CFR §1.97, §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

STATEMENT

The undersigned hereby states in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)(1) that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any

communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement and that the communication was not received by an individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 3, 2005

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Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

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	Substitute for f	orm 1449B/	PTO		1000		
	INFORMATION	N DISCLO	SURE	Application Number	10/644,087 /	(a)	
•	STATEMENT	BY APPLI	CANT	Filing Date	08/20/2003	MAY 0 2 2000	
	Date Submitte	d. May 3	2005	First Named Inventor	Ryuji FUKADA	MAY 0 3 2005	
	Date Submitte	cu. May 5,	2003	Group Art Unit	3726	A A	
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Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	040302-0343	PADEMARIA	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document			Date of Publication of	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant		
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Passages or Relevant Figures Appear		
	C1	6,854,310	B2	NARUSAKI et al.	02-15-2005			

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			ode ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
	C2	wo	02/38302		A1	HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD. et al.	05-16-2002	·	Abs
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		NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.						
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Examiner	Date	
Signature	Considered	

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.